

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1961

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Town Hall,
ROYSTON,
Herts.

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1961

Councillor P. L. Jacklin
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1961 - 1962

COUNCILLORS:

JOAN LADY NEWMAN
Chairman of the Council

R. J. GAVIN
Vice-Chairman of the Council

G. E. C. Bedwell

Mrs. E. A. King, J.P.

A. L. Cain, A.I.E.E.

R. C. Lawrence

Miss J. P. Etheridge, J.P.

F. J. Smith

H. G. Haddock

G. W. Stevens

P.L. Jacklin

E. A. Thompson

OFFICERS:

Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
District Medical Officer of Health

D. J. WALKER,
Clerk of the Council

S. M. JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Poyston Urban District Council

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the direction of Ministry Circular 1/62 I present an annual report for the year 1961.

This year the local death rate (12.0) is identical with the national figure. The live birth rate of 21.0 is again well above the national figure, reflecting the recent influx of new population with new industry. Local stillbirth and infant mortality rates for the year are seen to be very favourable.

I would acknowledge the assistance in the preparation of this report from Mr. S. M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the sections on sanitary conditions. Also I would thank your council and its chief officers for every consideration and assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Victor R. Walker,

District Medical Officer of Health

May, 1962

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1,626
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1961		6,160
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1962 (estimated)		1,964
Rateable Value (1961/62)	£100,322
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1961/62)	£368.16s. 7d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1961

							Royston Urban District	Comparable rate for England and Wales			
							<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>											
(Legitimate							126	74	52		
(Illegitimate							<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		
(All							129	75	54		
Rate per 1,000 population							21.0				17.4
Illegitimate live Births per cent of total live births							2.3%				
							<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>											
(Legitimate							1	1	-		
(Illegitimate							<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		
(All							1	1	-		
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births							7.7				18.7
							<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>							130	76	54		
							<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>DEATHS</u>							74	40	34		
Rate per 1,000 population							12.0				12.0
							<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>											
(Under 1 week							2	1	1		
1 - 4 weeks							-	-	-		
(4 - 52 weeks							<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		
(All							2	1	1		
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>											
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births							15.5				21.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births							15.9				
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births							0.0				
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)							15.5				15.5
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u> (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)							15.5				
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)							23.1				
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (including abortion)											
Number of Deaths							None				
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births							0.0				0.33

Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year local population again showed a small increase () on the previous year. Live births (129) were 23 more than for 1960 and local deaths (74) identical in number with the previous year.

SECTION B

Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Lee Valley Water Company by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

Again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in the Eagle Tavern area during dry spells.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

The Lee Valley Water Company reported on Bacteriological and Chemical examination examined during the year. 61 Bacteriological and 11 Chemical samples of water were examined and all conformed to the standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Temporary measures were carried out to control flooding of the irrigation beds at the Sewage Works, following consultations with the Consulting Engineers. In the middle of the year, agreement was reached with the farmer of land adjoining the Sewage Works for the preparation of three irrigation beds on his land together with the necessary ditching etc. to allow for any overflow from the works. The beds on the Sewage Works were also scraped and ploughed in rotation, and these efforts were successful in preventing any untoward flooding.

A new sewage pump was placed on order and arrangements made for the erection of a temporary pump house.

Negotiations with regard to the discharge of Trade Effluents from Industrial Works were carried on with the firms concerned and numerous samples of effluents were taken and submitted to the Consultants.

The Consulting Engineers continued their investigations into the siting for a new Sewage Disposal Works but at the end of the year no finality had been reached.

Seventy-nine new houses built by private enterprise were connected to the sewage system during the year.

There are thirty-nine houses in the district which have cesspool or septic tank drainage. Cesspools are emptied once a year by the Council free of charge.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal and disposal for the year amounted to £3,535.

A once weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year.

The search for a new site for a tip was unsuccessful and tipping continued on the existing site.

Tipping of refuse continued on the existing site and maintenance of the tip was continued and advantage taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatments against rat infestation was carried out during the year.

Rodent Control

The Rodent Control Scheme worked satisfactorily during the year and the following work was carried out :-

Total number of private premises treated	- 95
Total number of local authority premises treated, including tip	- 2
Total number of business premises treated	- 18
Total number of sewer maintenance treatments	- 2
Total number of premises treated under annual contract	- 2

The total number of inspections made by Officers of the Public Health Department and the Operator during the year was 295, including 12 inspections of agricultural land and 6 block inspections.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year :-

Under the Housing Acts	39
Under the Public Health Acts	182
Under the Factory Acts	35

Prevention of Infectious Diseases	3
Milk and Dairies Orders	4
Food Shops and Stores	121
Bakehouse Inspections	2
Prevention of Nuisances	124
House Drainage	42
Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	108
Rats and Mice Destruction	295
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	10
Miscellaneous Inspections	102

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Statutory Notices served	-
Informal Notices served	84
Notices complied with	86
Houses demolished	-
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal action	-
Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	39
Houses roofs renewed or repaired	12
House windows repaired	19
House chimneys repaired	2
House floors renewed or repaired	14
House ceilings renewed or repaired	12
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	-
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	26
Internal wall plaster repaired	24
House drains relaid or repaired	192 yds.
Gullies fixed	15
Intercepting traps fixed	3
New sinks fixed	14
Sinks renewed or repaired	2
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	16
W.C. roofs repaired	4
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	6
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	32
New baths fixed	6
Inspection chambers built	14
Inspection chambers repaired	2
New Vent shafts fixed	-
New F.A.I. fixed	3
Water service pipes repaired	26
Dampness remedied	12
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	-
Hot Water systems provided	6
Blocked drains cleared and cleansed	34
Accumulations of rubbish removed	32
Houses disinfected	3
Bakehouse floors cleansed	1
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	1
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	1
Sanitary conveniences at Factories repaired	2
Sanitary conveniences at Factories cleansed	4
Sanitary conveniences provided at Building Sites	8

Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

Plans and applications submitted	135
Plans and applications withdrawn	7
Plans and applications approved	110
Plans and applications disapproved	15
Plans and applications decision pending	3
Approved for new estates and houses	17
Approved for other buildings	80
Approved for change of user	2
Approved for advertisement signs	8
Approved for use of land and for layouts	8
New houses completed:-	
By local authority under Housing Acts	-
By private enterprise	79
Other buildings completed	54
Drains laid to above	5,245 yds.
Gullies laid to above	241
Connections to sewer	32
Vent shafts fixed	91
Inspection of chambers built	246
Water closets fixed	124
Intercepting traps fixed	20
Baths fixed	116
Sinks fixed	125
Lavatory basins fixed	119
Dustbins provided	118

SECTION D

Housing

No houses were erected by the Council during the year.

Seventy-nine new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

Ten properties were approved during the year for Improvement Grants under Section 30 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, seven applications for Standard grants for improvement of dwellings were approved.

Standard Grants were paid during the year for the provision of 4 fixed baths, 4 wash basins, 5 hot water supplies, 1 water closet, and 2 food storage facilities.

24 Council houses were improved by the provision of baths, wash basins and hot water supplies.

Slum Clearance Programme

The Slum Clearance Programme and the rehousing of slum clearance tenants was completed by the end of the year.

The purchase of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Victoria Terrace and Nos. 7 and 9 Queens Road was completed but the negotiations for purchase of the adjoining land required to provide for the contemplated scheme of building for Old Peoples' Dwellings were unsuccessful and the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order had to be considered.

The owner of house No. 53 King Street submitted plans for the improvement and repair of the property to bring it up to a reasonable standard of fitness for human habitation, and the Council accepted an undertaking under Section 16 of the 1957 Act.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Seven Conditional Approvals under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 were granted for the siting of caravans and Site Licences were issued in respect of these.

One site on which 14 caravans were placed was required to reduce the number to 11 before the expiry of the Licence on the 31st December 1962.

The remaining Licences were for single units on isolated sites.

One site on which two caravans were placed was considered to be unsuitable and one of the caravans was removed. The Council considered the making of an Order under Section 26 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, for the removal of the remaining caravan, and the submission of the Order to the Minister for confirmation.

The question of the provision of a Municipal Caravan Site was considered by the Council and it was decided to explore the possibilities of providing such a site.

Rent Act, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises in the District

The food premises, mobile food vendors, and stalls selling foodstuffs are classified according to the type in the following list. The total number given will exceed the actual number of premises as many sell various classes of foodstuffs.

	<u>Shops</u>	<u>Mobile Shops</u>	<u>Stalls</u>
Butchers	6	1	-
Grocers	17	3	1
Greengrocers	7	2	5
Wet Fish	3	-	-
Cafes	4	-	-
Fried Fish Shops	4	2	-
Dealers in Sweets	20	-	1
Dealers in Cakes	6	1	2
Dealers in Bread	6	-	-

	<u>Shops</u>	<u>Mobile Shops</u>	<u>Stalls</u>
Beer etc. (Off Licence)	1	-	-
Wines and Spirits etc. (Off Licence)	2	-	-
Public Houses	9	-	-
Egg Packing Stations	1	-	-

Premises Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

There are 15 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, together with 3 selling from vans not subject to registration in this District.

Fish Fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this Area.

There is also a factory in this District where sweets are manufactured. This is a branch works of Messrs. Barratt & Company Ltd. of Wood Green, London.

Dairies (Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54)

There are four milk producers in the District, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the District.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the District from premises situated outside the Urban Area.

Inspections of Registered Food Premises

During the year 127 inspections were made to the premises enumerated above, and to other food premises. In the case of the registered premises, there is nothing worthy of comment, all the premises being of a good standard and well maintained.

Educational activity in connection with Foods

There have been no activities such as Lectures, Clean Food Guilds and so on, but in a small community such as this there is a close personal approach between the Officers and the food handlers, and a good deal of informal advice and instruction has resulted in a steady all-round improvement in protection of food in storage, display and general handling.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the District during the year.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected during the year.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

No new circumstances arose to alter the view that there is no demand for slaughtering facilities in the Urban District at the present time.

Other Foods

Other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed :-

Ham	24 lbs.	5 oz.
"Mallowcream Cakes"	52 lbs.	8 oz.

Canned and Packaged Food

Jellied Veal	6 lbs. (1 Tin).
Luncheon Meat	2 lbs. (2 Tins).
Chopped Pork	24 lbs. (6 Tins).
Corned Beef	18 lbs. (3 Tins).
Casserole Steak	16 oz. (1 Tin).
Pork Tenderloin	3 lbs. 8 oz. (1 Tin).

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

The various requirements under these Regulations continue to be enforced. Washbasins, sinks with hot and cold water, together with the necessary cloths, towels, soap, nail brushes, were in most cases provided in preceding years.

New development in the Shopping Area of the Town provided up to date and satisfactory accommodation for a Butchery business and a confectionery business in lieu of old and unsuitable premises from which the firms transferred.

One grocery business which was housed in premises incapable of being brought up to standard ceased business therein.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No intimation of any occurrence of food poisoning was received during the year.

Seaside Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

Factories Act, 1937 to 1959

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	5	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	34	16	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority. (excluding outworkers).	10	14	-	-
Total	49	35	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u> (S.7)					
(a) Sufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	8	8	-	-	-
Total	14	14	-	-	-

Outworkers: There are two outworkers reported in the District, employed on the making of "wearing apparel".

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

Totals of notified infectious diseases for the whole year 1961 (after correction) were: Measles 196, Acute pneumonia 1, and Puerperal pyrexia 1. The figures show Royston to have suffered a heavy outbreak of measles (in the second quarter) after an almost complete local absence of such since 1958.

Immunisation

The availability for the whole year of the 'three-in-one' TRIPLE antigen - against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus - has lead to a steadily increased acceptance by parents. Similarly the offer early in the summer to children of primary school age of a fourth protective dose of Salk vaccine against poliomyelitis had an acceptance rate over seventy-five per cent, occasioning considerable extra work for staffs of both health department and primary schools.

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TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1961

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Comment : New notifications are again seen to be few; in addition inward transfers to the local register from other areas numbered two respiratory cases.

No single death from tuberculosis was credited to the district for the year.

VICTOR R. WALKER

Medical Officer of Health

June, 1962.

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